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 4/2003

the "prophet" Rulon Jeffs, late theocratic leader of a polygamous group settled along the Arizona/Utah border, with two of his estimated fifty wives. The two



brides in this wedding picture are full sisters. They were aged sixteen and nineteen when this wedding photo was taken. Both were married to Jeffs that day in an illegal ceremony. They smile because they are trained to

obey. "Keep sweet" is the chief admonishment of girls in polygamy. The bridegroom was over the age of thirty when this photo was taken. When he died, any of his widows were married to his eldest son who replaced him as prophet.

**Child Protection Project**

**PROTECTING THE HUMAN RIGHTS OF AMERICAN CHILDREN**



Child Bride  
 Ruby Jessop  
 Age 14

Ruby Jessop attempted to break away from the polygamist lifestyle after being forced, at the age of fourteen, to marry her step-brother. She received insufficient support from civil authorities in Utah and ended up back under the control of the separatist sect from which she fled. Ruby has since given birth to at least one child and has been allowed little contact even with other members of the polygamist group.

**There are thousands more like her who never even find the**

**Help stop institutionalized abuses in America.**

*About Child Protection Project*

Child Protection Project is dedicated to raising awareness about institutionalized child abuse and to assisting the victims of this pattern of abuse.

Currently, the most egregious offenses against human rights in America are embodied in the institutionalized forms of child abuse carried out by religious separatist groups whose teachings are informed by those of the early Mormon church. The violence and violations of these largely polygamist groups shape the lives of approximately 100,000 individuals in the American west.

We advocate prosecution of polygamy and the secret crimes that often accompany it such as incest, wife and child abuse, forced and underage marriages, and welfare and tax fraud. Where educators, members of the clergy (whether trained clergy or lay clergy), lawmakers and law enforcement personnel are, themselves, engaged in these crimes or are complicit in ignoring or hiding the evidence of these crimes or preventing the prosecution of criminals, we advocate their removal from office and, if appropriate, prosecution.

We advocate education of the members of currently polygamous groups and descendants of earlier polygamist groups about the genetic dangers of the almost unprecedented practices of

endogamous (within the family) polygamy. Begun as an animal husbandry practice to select for certain traits, early members of many of these polygamous groups began to apply the same practice to their own descendants, seeking to refine an Aryan race and "re-create" themselves or their favorite wives in offspring, by forcing siblings and half-siblings to intermarry, as well as arranging uncle/niece unions and repeated first cousin pairings. The price for this in human suffering and tax-subsidized healthcare is incalculably catastrophic.

We advocate holding institutions that promulgate these harmful practices as civilly and financially liable for the damages inflicted upon the victims of institutionalized abuse and forced inbreeding.

Under the leadership of escaped child bride, sister to Ruby Jessop (pictured on the front of this brochure), and human rights advocate Flora Jessop, and legal activist concerned with polygamous genetic convergence, Linda Walker, Child Protection Project reaches out to the child brides and their children to offer an alternative to the life into which they were born.

**Child Protection Project**

Send tax-deductible contributions to:  
**Child Protection Project**  
 c/o David L. Gould, Treasurer  
 555 S. Flower Street, Suite 4510  
 Los Angeles, CA 90071  
[www.childpro.org](http://www.childpro.org)

## You know the sight of oppression in Afghanistan...



Women's suffering under the Taliban is now well-known in America, while another oppressive and patriarchal theocracy thrives in America, supported by welfare programs funded with your taxes.

## Do you know what oppression looks like closer to home?



Some of the wives and children of Utah polygamist and convicted child rapist Tom Green.

"Prophet" Rulon Jeffs, pictured on the back of this brochure with two of his teen brides, made the following statement in a sermon delivered to school children in the public school:

November 1, 1995—In order for a man to become a God, he must live plural marriage in the United Order. No man can become a God unless he has more wives than one. For a woman to become a goddess, she must be married to a man who has more than one wife. Both the man and woman must have their marriage by revelation (arranged) through the prophet. If you disobey, you are choosing death!

### The Shroud of Polygamy: Not as Obvious as the Burka, but Just as Real

- Being taught to fear a "wicked" world and its "evil" people is reinforced when the culturally mandated unusual appearance of the women of polygamy inspires prejudiced reactions and treatment by the "gentiles." This fear hinders the forming of relationships outside of the religious community and limits access to any contrary information.

### A Polygamist Husband/Father has Absolute Power over his Household

- His word is law
- His authority is never questioned
- His rules need not be consistent
- A "bad" wife/child is subject to physical correction, up to and including death

### Wives Never Appear in Public Alone

- protects husbands/fathers from prosecution
- limits contacts that might disprove information
- controls information and protects his dominance

### Deficient Education

#### Boys are taught that...

- Reward in the afterlife is determined by the number and obedience of their wives and children
- They must begin earning early in order to help support their fathers' many wives and children.

#### Girls are taught that...

- Fecundity and obedience are their primary duties and their path to spiritual reward — a reward that includes more obedience in the afterlife.

#### Both genders...

- ...are, in most cases, denied education after the eighth grade.

### Wives Prized for Breeding Potential

- Physical, rather than emotional, capacity to bear children determines marriage age.
- marriages are arranged according to the prophet's

direction, often in direct opposition to the sentiments of the bride

- (male) self-control is the only birth control
- wives and children are possessions taken from "unworthy" men and given to "worthy" men by the prophet (the theocratic leader of the sect).

### Denial of Civil Rights

- Women are not encouraged to register to vote because the registration would reveal more than one woman living at a residence.
- Women are not to speak with people outside the group, including their own families. Men, priesthood leaders or other wives can enter women's rooms at any time to search for material that is forbidden such as music, books, money, letters or personal effects.
- Women are not able to form friendships with other women but are to seek advice from their husband only.
- Women must ask permission to go shopping, to a friend's house, or run any errand. If the husband is not available then they are to ask the first wife for permission.

Groups who embrace these practices refuse to be bound by the laws of secular authorities and defend their closed communities with violence and deception. These groups are geographically focused primarily in the western United States in Utah, Arizona, and Idaho with offshoot groups in Mexico, Canada, Texas and Colorado. The total combined population is difficult to assess as many births go unrecorded with civil authorities, in part to avoid prosecution since some mothers are as young as thirteen and the birth of their children can be used as evidence in statutory rape cases. Population estimates range from 50,000 to in excess of 100,000. Those who leave the polygamous communities are under the constant threat of the doctrine of "Blood Atonement" which, like the Islamic *Fatwa*, condemns the apostate to death.

Please contribute generously to help provide protection and legal and practical assistance to those Americans, denied human rights and civil liberties from birth, who want to leave polygamy.

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